

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

-----X  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

-v-  
RALPH MERCADO

,  
Defendant.

**WAIVER OF RIGHT TO BE PRESENT AT  
CRIMINAL PROCEEDING**

21 -CR- 153 (PMH)

-----X  
**Check Proceeding that Applies**

\_\_\_\_ Arraignment

I have been given a copy of the indictment containing the charges against me and have reviewed it with my attorney. I understand that I have a right to appear before a judge in a courtroom in the Southern District of New York to confirm that I have received and reviewed the indictment; to have the indictment read aloud to me if I wish; and to enter a plea of either guilty or not guilty before the judge. After consultation with my attorney, I wish to plead not guilty. By signing this document, I wish to advise the court of the following. I willingly give up my right to appear in a courtroom in the Southern District of New York to advise the court that:

- 1) I have received and reviewed a copy of the indictment.
- 2) I do not need the judge to read the indictment aloud to me.
- 3) I plead not guilty to the charges against me in the indictment.

Date:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Defendant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

\_\_\_\_ Bail Hearing

I am applying or in the future may apply for release from detention, or if not detained, for modification of the conditions of my release from custody, that is, my bail conditions. I understand that I have a right to appear before a judge in a courtroom in the Southern District of New York at the time that my attorney makes such an application. I have discussed these rights with my attorney and wish to give up these rights for the period of time in which access to the courthouse has been restricted on account of the COVID-19 pandemic. I request that my attorney be permitted to make applications for my release from custody or for modification of the conditions of my release even though I will not be present, and to make such applications in writing or by telephone in my attorney's discretion.

Date:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Defendant

\_\_\_\_\_

X Conference

Date: July 14, 2021 /s/ *Ralph Mercado*  
(by John S. Wallenstein, Esq., after discussion and with consent)  
Signature of Defendant

I hereby affirm that I am aware of my obligation to discuss with my client the charges contained in the indictment, my client's rights to attend and participate in the criminal proceedings encompassed by this waiver, and this waiver form. I affirm that my client knowingly and voluntarily consents to the proceedings being held in my client's absence. I will inform my client of what transpires at the proceedings and provide my client with a copy of the transcript of the proceedings, if requested.

JOHN S. WALLENSTEIN  
Print Name

~~Signature of Judge~~ Hon. Philip M. Halpern, U.S.D.J.  
Date: July 16, 2021